

RESOURCES

North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks,
by Beebe & Webster

A Bond with the Wild, ed. Ken Filkens

The Falconer's Apprentice, by Oakes

The Redtailed Hawk, by McGranahan

American Kestrels in Modern Falconry, by Matt Mullenix

Falconry books can be ordered through the following:

Northwoods Falconry
P.O. Box 874
Ranier, WA 98576
<http://www.northwoodsfaconry.com>

Nicholson's
6935 Shorecrest Dr.
Anaheim, CA 92807

Western Sporting Publications
<http://www.westernsporting.com>

Also, check your local library for falconry books.

Additional falconry information may be provided by the following organizations:

Texas Hawking Association
<http://www.geocities.com/texashawking/tha.html>
e-mail: Texashawking@yahoo.com

North American Falconer's Association
<http://www.n-a-f-a.org>

Sources of additional information via the Internet:

<http://www.falconry.com/index.html>
<http://americanfalconry.com>
<http://www.falconry.org/~btallon/listserver.html>
<http://www.falconersworld.falconry.org>

For permit applications, write

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Nongame Permits Section
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744



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Austin, Texas 78744

PWD BR W7000-0020 (10/01)

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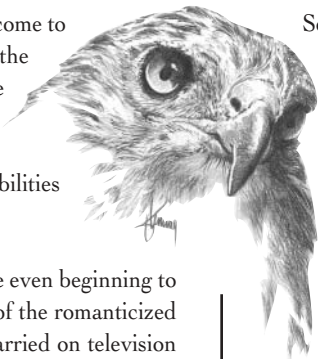
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



**DO YOU REALLY
WANT TO BE A
FALCONER?**

FALCONRY . . .

Due to the large number of requests that come to Texas Parks and Wildlife asking about the sport of falconry and how to become involved in it, we have prepared this bulletin to help you decide whether you are ready and able to accept the responsibilities that this complex sport requires.



The first thing that anyone must do before even beginning to study falconry or "hawking" is to get rid of the romanticized ideas of the sport which are frequently carried on television and in newspaper and magazine articles. These articles tend to sensationalize sports and disregard the hours of labor involved in preparation—especially in the case of falconry. For example, success in taking game is almost always exaggerated. If you are looking for a full game bag at the end of the day, it is probably best that you stick with your shotgun or rifle. Unlike the firearm, which can be placed on the shelf at the end of the season, the sport of falconry places great demands upon its participants in terms of time, money and effort throughout the year. We ask that you carefully examine your own circumstances with regard to falconry.

Of all sports, falconry is the only one that uses a trained wild animal which "belongs" to the general public. These birds are a valuable part of our wildlife resources, so the falconer must use wise conservation practices in the pursuit of his sport. In fact, the existence of falconry depends upon the continued welfare of the birds of prey. The casual and uninformed novice may inadvertently, through ignorance or neglect, harm the raptorial species and thereby discredit the sport itself.

Consequently, before Texas Parks and Wildlife allows the taking or training of any raptor, proof must be shown that the individual making the request has a serious and dedicated interest in the sport. The department feels that anything less will bring grief to both hawk and falconer, and that birds which fall into the hands of those who are not deeply motivated should be restored to the wild without delay.

Serious dedication is normally demonstrated by reading anything and everything available on falcons and falconry, by a sincere interest in all aspects of conservation, and by a persistent effort to learn all fundamentals of the sport. All this occurs before any attempt is made to apply for a permit. Most successful falconers began in this manner, and as a novice, you must be willing to go through a similar period of apprenticeship under the guidance of a general or master-level falconer. If the would-be falconer is not willing to go through this, he or she should not attempt to become a falconer.

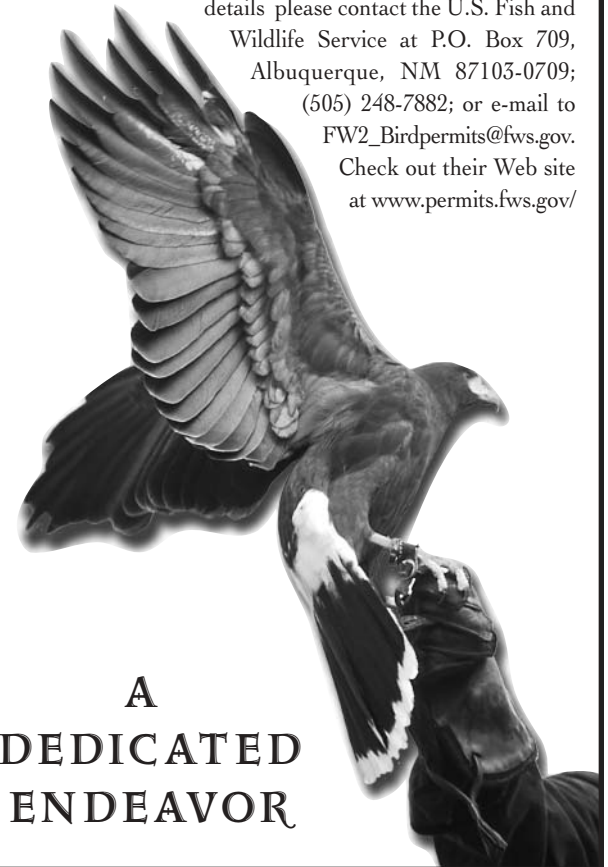
However, if a person is sincerely interested in falconry and he or she is willing to undertake the necessary study before getting a bird, the prospective falconer must then be prepared to meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be willing and able to provide sufficient time and patience to care for, train and fly the bird. This will require a minimum of one hour a day during the hunting season. Even when the bird is put up for the molt, it must be handled and otherwise cared for; it cannot be left to fend for itself, even for a period of one weekend. Permits will not be issued to those who merely wish to have an unusual pet.
- Have the funds to obtain proper food and the basic materials for falconry. An appropriate diet is essential to the raptor's good health. The importance of an adequate supply of fresh food cannot be overemphasized. In addition, the falconer will be expected to provide the services of a licensed veterinarian when necessary, and to have on hand the following items which must be fabricated or purchased before a permit is granted: hood, jesses, swivels, leashes, a gauntlet glove, outdoor perch, bath pan and scales.
- Be able to provide suitable facilities for keeping a bird in fair weather or foul. Captive hawks must be protected at all times from cats, dogs and other predators, as well as extremes of heat and cold, wind and dampness. They must be provided with a weathering area where they can be kept

out of doors during good weather. The falconer must also be able to provide a sheltered perch at night and in bad weather, which is dry and protected from the wind and rain.

Providing that all of the above requirements can be met, the beginner is required to take and pass a multiple choice examination on raptors and falconry that encompasses such diverse topics as training techniques, diseases and natural history.

We hope we have adequately conveyed the notion that the practice of falconry cannot be learned overnight or in a single lesson, but only after years of hard work. There are also additional federal permit requirements. For details please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at P.O. Box 709, Albuquerque, NM 87103-0709; (505) 248-7882; or e-mail to FW2_Birdpermits@fws.gov. Check out their Web site at www.permits.fws.gov/



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